

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification  
and/or Waste Discharge Requirements**

Pacific Lumber Company  
Summer Crossings at Truck Shop Bar and Dyerville  
WDID No. 1B05006WNHU

Humboldt County

On January 20, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Pacific Lumber Company (applicant) requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for installation of the Truck Shop Bar and Dyerville summer bridge crossings over the Eel River in Humboldt County, California. The proposed projects will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Eel River in the Scotia Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.12 and Sequoia Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.41.

The applicant proposes annual installation and removal of bridge crossings over the Eel River at the Truck Shop Bar near Scotia and at Dyerville, upstream of the confluence of the Eel River and South Fork Eel River. The applicant has installed summer bridges at these locations for many years. Installation of these bridges involves excavation of gravel from adjacent gravel bars and placement of logs to construct bridge abutments and ramp approaches. Approximately 1,400 cubic yards of gravel will be needed to construct the abutments and ramps for both bridges. Flatcar bridges will be set on top of the gravel and log abutments to complete the crossings. The Truck Shop Bar crossing includes two approximately sixty-foot long flatcar bridges connected by a log abutment that is placed on a gravel footing in the center of the low-flow channel. The Dyerville crossing consists of one approximately eighty-nine foot long flatcar bridge that spans the low-flow channel. The bridge installation and removal operations utilize bulldozers, loaders, excavators and dump trucks.

Summer bridge installations occur as early as June 15 each year and bridges must be removed prior to November 15. The applicant's Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements for these bridges require that after October 14, the bridges must be removed prior to a one-foot increase in stream elevation compared to the stream elevation on October 14. The bridges also must be removed within 24 hours of the California Department of Fish and Game directing the applicant to remove the bridges. All in-stream work is confined to the period of June 15 through October 15 by an individual Section 404 permit (No. 27565N) issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project does not require removal of mature vegetation and will not result in a loss of wetlands. Approximately 0.75 acre of gravel bar and stream channel will be temporarily impacted by the annual crossing installation and removal activities. Compensatory mitigation is not required. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control.

Timber Harvest Plans (THPs), including plans for installing these bridges over the Eel River, were prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), through a CEQA equivalent process. THPs are part of a certified state regulatory program that provides a substitute document to a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as the lead agency for CEQA, certified THP Number 1-03-003HUM and THP Number 1-03-137HUM on August 7, 2003 and September 22, 2003, respectively. The California Department of Fish and Game reviewed the THPs that were certified by the lead agency and found that the bridge projects will not result in significant environmental effects. The applicant has obtained Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreements (1600 Permits) from the California Department of Fish and Game for each bridge.

Regional Water Board staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801, or at [pratd@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:pratd@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov) within 21-days of the posting of this notice.